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EXAMINER	
VU, THONG H	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2142	

DATE MAILED: 06/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/725,717	MALIK, DALE W.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thong H. Vu	2142	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *13 May 2005*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,2,4-21 and 23-28* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1,2,4-21 and 23-28* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

1. Claims 1,2,4-21,23-28 are pending. Claims 3, 22 are canceled.

2. Claim 23 is depended on the canceled claim 22. Examiner assumed it depended on claim 21. Correction is required.

Response to Amendment

3. Applicant's arguments filed 5/13/05 with respect to claims 1,2,4-21,23-28 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-2,4-21,23-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Duvall et al [Duvall 5,884,033] in view of Katsikas [6,868,498 B1].

5. As per claim 1, Duvall discloses a method of providing a system for automatically checking for an incorrect e-mail address in an outgoing e-mail communication, comprising:

creating an incoming domain name list in a memory [Duvall, the Filter database with the lists of filters, col 3 line 64-col 4 line 11];

receiving an incoming email communication [Duvall, incoming/outgoing message, col 4 lines 22-37];

extracting a domain name from a sender's email address from the incoming email communications [Duvall, filter pattern in the URL, col 5 line 65-col 6 line 9, line 60-col 7line 8; col 8 lines 48-61;col 9 lines 47-64; col 11 lines 60-64;col 12 lines 23-26];

storing the domain name in the incoming domain name list in the a memory [Duvall, domain name and DNS, col 3 lines 12-40];

checking if a domain name of the e-mail address associated with an intended recipient of the outgoing e-mail communication is included in the incoming domain name list in the memory [Duvall, filter pattern matching is performed when incoming data is received from the host server following a particular detected outgoing command, col 5 lines 30-50]; and

transmitting the outgoing email communication if the domain name is included in the incoming domain name list [Duvall, ALLOW filter, col 3 line 64-col 4 line 36],

However Duval does not explicitly detail

otherwise generating a prompt for a user to confirm an e-mail address associated with the intended recipient of the outgoing e-mail communication.

In the same endeavor, Katsikas discloses a system for eliminating unauthorized email wherein a prompt is displayed to the user to confirm the email process [Katsikas, col 12 lines 59-64].

Therefore it would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the verification process taught by Katsikas into the Duvall's apparatus in order to utilize the filtering system. Doing so would provide an security feature to control the incoming and outgoing email over Internet.

6. As per claim 2, Duvall-Katsikas disclose extracting a domain name from each e-mail address provided in the outgoing e-mail communication, wherein the e-mail communication is transmitted after checking each extracted domain name in the list of domain names, and confirming each e-mail address for which the extracted domain name is not included in the incoming domain name list [Duvall, search for a matching domain name table, col 4 lines 37-55;col 6 lines 43-59;col 8 lines 27-61].

7. As per claim 4, Duvall-Katsikas disclose receiving a corrected e-mail address from the user in response to the prompt; and repeating the steps of checking a corrected domain name and generating a prompt if the corrected domain name is not included in the incoming domain name list, until the user either confirms that the domain name provided in the e-mail address is correct or provides a domain name that is in the list of domain names [Duvall, search for a matching domain name table, col 4 lines 37-55;col 6 lines 43-59;col 8 lines 27-61].

8. As per claim 5, Duvall-Katsikas disclose the outgoing e-mail communication is intercepted in an e-mail server to check the domain name in the e-mail address prior to transmission [Duvall, search for a matching domain name table, col 4 lines 37-55;col 6 lines 43-59;col 8 lines 27-61].

9. As per claim 6, Duvall-Katsikas disclose the prompt is an e-mail message from the e-mail server to the user [Katsikas, prompt to confirm, col 12 lines 59-64].

10. As per claim 7, Duvall-Katsikas disclose the prompt is a network message to the user [Katsikas, prompt to confirm, col 12 lines 59-64].

11. As per claims 21,23-25 contain the similar limitations as set forth in claims 1-2,4-7. Therefore claims 21,23-25 are rejected by the same rationale set forth claims 1-2,4-7.

12. As per claim 8, Duvall discloses A method of automatically checking for misspelled e-mail addresses in outgoing e-mail communications prior to transmission by an e-mail communications server, comprising:

receiving email communications incoming to the email communications server [Duvall, server30, Fig 1];

creating a domain name database [Duvall, the Filter database with the lists of filters, col 3 line 64-col 4 line 11; URL, col 5 line 65-col 6 line 9];

extracting domain names in senders' e-mail addresses from the e-mail communications incoming to the email communications server [Duvall, filter pattern in the URL, col 5 line 65-col 6 line 9, line 60-col 7line 8; col 8 lines 48-61;col 9 lines 47-64; col 11 lines 60-64; col 12 lines 23-26];

storing extracted domain names in the domain name database [Duvall, URL and database, col 5 line 65-col 6 line 9;

receiving outgoing e-mail communications from client computers connected to the e-mail communications server through a local network [Duvall, server30, Fig 1];

searching the domain name database for domain names spelled similarly to the

domain names in e-mail addresses associated with intended recipients of the outgoing e-mail communication routed in the outgoing e-mail communications [Duvall, search for a matching domain name table, col 4 lines 37-55;col 6 lines 43-59;col 8 lines 27-61];

generating an error prompt upon detecting that a domain name in an e-mail address provided in an outgoing e-mail communication is misspelled [Katsikas, prompt to confirm, col 12 lines 59-64].

13. As per claim 9, Duvall-Katsikas disclose searching for similarly spelled domain names is performed by checking each alphanumeric character comprised in the extracted domain name with the alpha-numeric characters comprised in the domain names in the database, and detecting when there is at least one but no more than a maximum number of discrepancies between a domain name in the domain name database and the extracted domain name [Duvall, search for a matching domain name table, col 4 lines 37-55;col 6 lines 43-59;col 8 lines 27-61].

14. As per claim 10, Duvall-Katsikas disclose searching for similarly spelled domain names is performed by removing an alpha-numeric character from the extracted domain name and searching the domain name database for a domain name consisting of at least each of the remaining alphanumeric characters in the extracted domain name [Duvall, search for a matching domain name table, col 4 lines 37-55;col 6 lines 43-59;col 8 lines 27-61].

15. As per claim 11, Duvall-Katsikas disclose searching for similarly spelled domain names is performed by comparing the extracted domain name with reference domain names stored in the domain name database according to predetermined spelling grammar algorithms [Duvall, search for a matching domain name table, col 4 lines 37-55;col 6 lines 43-59;col 8 lines 27-61].

16. As per claims 12,13 Duvall-Katsikas disclose the error prompt is an e-mail message from the e-mail server to the client computer transmitting the e-mail communication [Katsikas, prompt to confirm, col 12 lines 59-64].

17. As per claim 14, Duvall-Katsikas disclose determining whether extracted domain names are already stored in the domain name database, whereby only a single copy of an extracted domain name is stored in the domain name database as inherent feature of domain list [Duvall, search for a matching domain name table, col 4 lines 37-55;col 6 lines 43-59;col 8 lines 27-61].

18. As per claim 15, Duvall-Katsikas disclose storing tally information in the domain name database to tally the frequency in which domain names in the domain name database are extracted from incoming e-mail communications as inherent feature of domain list [Duvall, search for a matching domain name table, col 4 lines 37-55;col 6 lines 43-59;col 8 lines 27-61].

19. As per claim 16, Duvall-Katsikas disclose deleting domain names from the domain name database that are not frequently extracted from incoming e-mail communications according to respective tally information as inherent feature of domain list [Duvall, delete portions of data, col 5 lines 30-50].

20. As per claim 17, Duvall-Katsikas disclose the tally information for each domain name in the domain name database includes the calendar date in which the domain name was most recently extracted as inherent feature of domain list.

21. As per claims 18-20 contain the similar limitations as set forth in claims 8-17. Therefore claims 18-25 are rejected by the same rationale set forth claims 8-17.

22. As per claim 26, Duvall discloses an e-mail communications system stored in a client computer for automatically checking for incorrect e-mail addresses provided in outgoing e-mail communications from the client computer prior to transmission to an e-mail server, comprising:

an address extractor for extracting senders' e-mail addresses from incoming e-mail communications [Duvall filtering outgoing message, col 4 lines 38-55];

a memory for storing e-mail addresses extracted from senders' e-mail addresses in incoming e-mail communications [Duvall filtering incoming message, col 5 lines 30-50]; and

a checker for searching the memory for e-mail addresses associated with intended recipients of the that are provided in outgoing e-mail communications [Duvall, filter pattern matching is performed when incoming data is received from the host server following a particular detected outgoing command, col 5 lines 30-50], wherein the checker generates a prompt for verification of the email address upon detecting that an e-mail address in an outgoing e-mail communication is not present in the memory [Katsikas, prompt to confirm, col 12 lines 59-64].

23. As per claim 27, Duvall discloses the memory is included in an e-mail address directory [Duval domain name and directories, col 3 lines 1-12 et seq].

24. As per claim 28, Duvall discloses the e-mail address directory additionally stores user-specified e-mail addresses [Duval domain name and directories, col 3 lines 1-12 et seq].

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner *Thong Vu*, whose telephone number is (571)-272-3904. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00AM- 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, *Rupal Dharia*, can be reached at (571) 272-3880. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval IPAIRI system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PMR or Public PMR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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